



MEETING MINUTES / 18 JUNE 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell, Stewart, Baldwin, Bradley, Farley, Johnson, Lardizzone, Lopez, Magner, Sarg, Seppala **73%**

Excused: Armbruster, McMullen, Newman, Newstadt

Unexcused:

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Pat Cerchio (First State Military Women Warriors), Dave Skocik (Veterans Coalition), Dave Rich (Department of Labor), Kadreana Mack (Techadox), Kadeem Gaines (Techadox), Mike Selby (Wilmington VAMC), Susan Sheehy (Veteran and College Athletes Together – VCAT)

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS (Meeting lead by Vice Chair Stewart:

Moment of silence for service members and veterans' contributions abroad
Will vote for vice chair in a closed session

MEETING MINUTES:

Lardizzone, seconded by Sarg, approved

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Brendan Mackie, Public Affairs Officer

Wellness Fair, today, outside the medical center from 1000 – 1400

Progress is occurring with new Dover CBOC project

Outreach team continues to be active within the community, throughout the state

(Sarg) How is the roll out of the Mission Act going?

Haven't received a lot of feedback from veterans, set up a phone line for direct inquiries

- Call center receives approximately 10 inquiries per day

Still working on getting contracts in place for urgent care facilities

The call center is the best resource for gaining Mission Act questions

(Farley) Noticed there isn't a vet center in Kent County, would like to discuss having one established

Can help facilitate meeting with department that handles vet centers

(Farley) Met with Kent Johnson (VA social worker) on Vet Fest and Stand Down presence and his team will be present to make suicide awareness presentation

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Terry Hollinger, Director:

Census: 74 residents / 2 admissions pending / 14 on waiting list

Director of Nursing is retiring on 30 August and the position has been posted

Dining room renovation is expected to be complete in September

Blue suite renovation is expected to be complete in July

Working with architect to determine the best location, at the home, for the dental suite

- Teaming with an agency familiar with dental suite construction

Dieticians, housekeeping, and laundry staff have petitioned to be unionized

- Nursing staff is unionized

- Already responded to petition and the next step is an election to unionize

(Johnson) Is there an issue hiring and retaining nurses?

Still an issue, continuously recruiting and hiring

- Pay scale is an issue and waiting ten years, as an employee, for a pension is an issue

(Mike Selby) Mentioned goal of increasing telehealth between the home and the Wilmington VAMC, currently using for behavior health

(Sarg) Is there a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) focus group at the home?

Not at this time

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michael Selby, Wilmington VAMC Telehealth Coordinator

Provided a live demonstration of the telehealth system

Connected with a colleague, via tablet, to demonstrate how providers and patients can communicate

Explained how sometimes patients are resistant, but after experiencing the ease, they become receptive

Goal is to ensure veterans are connected with health team

A certain number of tablets are issued to veterans to help ensure connectivity

Pat Cerchio, First State Women Warriors

Watchmaker's Initiative is receiving fundraising help from Bulova watches

- GoFundMe project, Bulova will match your donation

Dave Skocik, Delaware Veterans Coalition

Repeated Bulova GoFundMe information

Stand Down will pursue Veterans Court mentors

Dave Rich, Veteran Employment and Training (DOL)

Mentioned his agency is focused on employment for veterans, spouses, and family members

Veterans' unemployment rate is below 3%

Veterans' spouse unemployment rate is 11%, looking for opportunities to reduce this number

Introduced program called Techadox where veterans and spouses can maintain employment from place to place

Kadreana Mack and Kadeem Gaines (Techadox)

Seeking a relationship with Veterans Service Organizations and the commission for hiring veterans and spouses

Agency hires IT professionals, many how obtain that skill during their military service

Create a program listing your skills and certifications and you receive notifications on available local hires

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 57 (-15)

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 31 (+8)

Repair work on porticos is complete

Flag Day was successful

Frank Silva was promoted to Conservation Tech III and Carlos Bishop and Karen Selby were hired into casual seasonal position (one position remains vacant)

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Delaware Veterans Home is still working on the dental suite design

Touring Post-Acute Medical facility on 1 July

- Among several post medical conditions, they also handle brain injured patients

Pushing traumatic brain injury data base, in Delaware, to identify these persons

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Presented by Sarg

HB 156 – License to hunt, fish, and trap without fee if you are 60% or greater service connected

SB 83 – Allows military spouses, with physical therapy licenses, to have their license authorized in Delaware

HB 213 – Exempting property tax for 100% service connected goes before the House Veterans Affairs Committee 19 June / 1300

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 6; Granted 5 (83.3%); Awarded \$4,553.59; Balance - \$42,369.00

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

Chapter Information:

Chapter is making plans to attend national conference

Chapter secure honor guard for Delaware Veterans Home Memorial Day Service

Commissioner Information:

19 May: Attended Mission BBQ's POW/MIA Chair Dedication

20 May: Attended Memorial Mass of Archdiocese for Military Services, Washington DC

23 May: Attended Bear Cemetery's Memorial Day Service

28 May: Presented AFSA wreath at DelVets Memorial Day Service

28 May: Attended VVA Memorial Day Service

30 May: Presented AFSA floral tribute during Bridge Memorial Day Service

12 Jun: As Board Member, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Scholarship Board, awarded over \$16K in scholarships to Airmen, Families, and Veterans

24 – 29 Aug: International Professional Airman's Conference, San Antonio, Texas

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

16 and 20 May: Participated in set up/breakdown and volunteer at moving Vietnam Wall display

30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day Service

14 Jun: Post 2 held Flag Day Ceremony

14 Jun: Attended Millsboro Cemetery's Flag Day Service

14 Jun: Post 2 Auxiliary held clover sale at several Long Neck area businesses

21 – 24 Aug: AmVets National Convention, Louisville, KY

- Scheduled to attend as NEC for Delaware District 2

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

25 May: Attended Bear Cemetery's Memorial Day Service

27 May: Attended VVA Memorial Day Service

30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day Service

6 Jun: Department arranged 76 disabled veterans to attend Blue Rock's game

- From Veterans Home, Home of the Brave, Wilmington VAMC

8 Jun: Attended DNG Departure Ceremony

14 Jun: Attended Executive Committee Meeting

20 Jun: Friends of Delaware Veterans' Meeting

23 – 26 Jun: New York State DAV Convention

27 Jun: Delaware Veterans Home Admission Meeting

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Attended three scholarship award presentation

- Awarded \$1000.00 to six students at three high schools (two per school)

Made \$3000.00 donation to Wreaths Across America

Attended Bridge Memorial Day Service

Attended Georgetown Memorial Day Service

Attended Millsboro Cemetery's Flag Day Ceremony

Rehoboth Beach Flag Day Ceremony was cancelled

Chapter 1 does not meet again until September

Chapter 2 attended and participated in two parades (New Castle and Newark)

Chapter 2 continues to fundraise each week

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

25 May: Attended Bear Cemetery Memorial Day Service

27 May: Attended Holy Cross Church Memorial Day Mass/Ceremony

27 May: Attended VVA Memorial Day Service, presented DCVA wreath

29 May: Conducted Veterans Suicide Prevention Planning Meeting

- Focus: Veterans Stand Down, VetFest, and VA Suicide Prevention coordination

17 Jun: Met with Modern Maturity Center Program Development Director on veteran services and events planning

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

22 May: Sponsored a hole at the Blue Suitor's golf tournament

25 May: Attended Bear Cemetery's Memorial Day Service

27 May: Attended DelVets Memorial Day Service

27 May: Attended VVA Memorial Day Service

30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day Service

3 Jun: Attended Brain Injury Trust Fund and General Council Meeting

11 Jun: Attended Employment Oversight Commission Meeting

14 Jun: Attended Millsboro Cemetery's Flag Day Service

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

25 May: Departmental Convention at Mission BBQ, Dover

- Commander Gary "MO" Morris will be sworn in as 2019 – 20 commander

14 Jun: Hosted Millsboro Cemetery Flag Day Ceremony

15 Jun: Chapter 9377 was at the Hockessin Acme Store for Viola Day fundraiser

- Raised \$1045.00

Department and chapters are on summer break and activities resume in September

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Commissioner Showell reported for VFW that State Convention is 21 – 22 June

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

7 Jun: Attended Last Roll Call at Wilmington VAMC

Moving forward with Sussex charter school, location in negotiation, trying for Army sponsorship

- Will not be a military school, but a school with an ROTC option

- Potentially in Laurel School District

- Looking for sponsors to purchase classroom

Working on Naval ship name for Dover (Littoral Combat Ship)

DMA and FSMA held graduations and have successful school years

Update on veterans 100% service connection, tax exemption

Depart for London/Normandy/Sardegna, will miss July's meeting

GSA is still soliciting Veteran Service Organizations and nonprofits to use their services for equipment and supplies

- Applications are online via GSA website

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

Attended Bridge Memorial Day Service

Attended Millsboro Cemetery Flag Day Service

Has a work conference during the July meeting, so will not be in attendance

- Commissioner Stewart will chair the July meeting

Delaware Tech's Owens Campus will unveil a POW/MIA chair sometime this year

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

25 May: Attended Bear Cemetery's Memorial Day Service

29 May: Attended Our Community Salutes Ceremony

30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day Service

4 Jun: MOWW Wilmington Chapter meeting

- National Commander-in-Chief, John Hollywood inducted new members and swore in officers

8 Jun: Worked at the Delaware Military Museum

- Bob Austin spoke on his life as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II

22 Jun: MOWW Region III convention to be held at the Delaware Military Museum

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

21 May: DelVets Post 1 held VA Town Hall / Resource Fair

23 May: Attended American Legion Post 2 and DelVets Post 2 Meeting

- Planning for future Dover Triangle Memorial Day Ceremonies

12 Jun: Attended DelVets Post 2 By-Laws Meeting, new By-Laws will be presented in September

14 Jun: Attended Millsboro Cemetery's Flag Day Service

14 Jun: Attended Elks Lodge's Flag Day Service

15 Jun: Assisted with distributing Convoy of Hope flyer in local neighborhoods

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

Spoke to Boys State (American Legion) participants at Legislative Hall

TERM COMPLETION:

EVENTS:

6 Jul / 0900: Freedom 5K Run/Walk/Roll, Silver Lake Park, Dover
9 Jul / 1030: Veterans Education Task Force Meeting, DNG Biden Center, New Castle
13 Jul / 1000: Convoy of Hope, Legislative Green, Dover
18 Jul / 0830: DJF Meeting, Adams Service Center, Georgetown
8 Aug / 1030: DCVA Table Display, Modern Maturity Center, Dover
23 Aug / 1000: DCVA Table Display, Noble's Pond Senior Spree, Noble's Pond Clubhouse, Cheswold

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

See information in closed session

NEW BUSINESS:**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:****CLOSED SESSION:**

Proposed future meeting at DelVets Post 1 on 20 August / 1500 or 1700
- Commissioners voted to hold the meeting at 1500
- Concerned with marketing to increase additional veteran and citizen attendance

Election of Vice Chair

- Commissioner voted to retain Commissioner Stewart as Vice Chair (ran unopposed)

SPECIAL SESSION:

Susan Sheehy, Veteran and College Athletes Together (VCAT)

- Presented information on VCAT, a program that pairs college athletes and veterans (primarily disabled)
- The pairing involves exercising which leads to overall bonding
- The program was initiated at Boston College and is now beginning at the University of Delaware
- Veterans are being sought via Veteran Service Organizations

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 20 August 2019 at 1500

LOCATION:

DelVets Post 1 (Wilmington)